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AUG 21 2006

Application No. 10/670,269
Amendment dated August 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2006

Docket No.: 2450-0545P

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are now present in this application.

The specification, abstract, and claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Barnus et al., U.S. Patent 5,717,428. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Barnus et al. in view of Kuan, U.S. Publication 2002/0109675. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claim 2 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected[- to but allowable claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

It is also noted that certain additional changes have been made to the specification, claims, and abstract. These changes have simply been made for clarity, and have not been made in response to any particular objection or rejection made by the Examiner.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning this document are considered necessary at this time.

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In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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